

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSO-00 /091 W

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R 171230Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4628

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6010

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON US ROLE IN ME NEGOTIATIONS

1. LOCAL PRESS JUNE 14 AND 15 CONCENTRATES EDITORIALS ON US ROLE IN ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WITH VARYING DEGREES OF INTENSITY, EGYPTIAN EDITORS CALL ON US TO ANNOUNCE ITS STAND "NOW THAT IT IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ELEMENTS THAT WILL ENABLE IT TO DRAW UP THE POLICY IT WISHES TO PURSUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST...THERE IS NO LONGER ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR DELAYING A DECLARATION BY PRESIDENT FORD" (AHRAM JUNE 14). "IT REMAINS FOR AMERICA TO DEFINE ITS STAND" (GUMHURIYYA, JUNE 14). "MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE EXPECTED WHITE HOUSE DECLARATION ON THE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY. IT MAY END IN CHANGING THE ISRAELI ADVENTUROUS MENTALITY WHICH WAGERS NOW ON A SPLIT IN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION" (AKHBAR, JUNE 15). "THE PRESENT SITUATION DEMANDS THAT AMERICA ASSUME A MORE CLEAR AND DECISIVE STAND...BEFORE THE OPPORTUNITY IS LOST AND THE SITUATION DETERIORATES BEYOND CONTROL" (AHRAM, JUNE 15).

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2. ON ME PEACE MOVES, AKHBAR AL-YAWM JUNE 14 REPORTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER "IS EXPECTED TO RESUME HIS EFFORTS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY...BRITISH CIRCLES DO NOT EXPECT ANY OPPOSITION FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO A RETURN TO KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP POLICY". THE SAME PAPER ADDS THAT "KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE ANOTHER SUMMIT BETWEEN PRESIDENTS SADAT AND FORD". IT ALSO REPORTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LEARNED FROM PM RABIN DURING HIS STOPOVER IN LONDON ENROUTE TO WASHINGTON THAT HE CARRIED WITH HIM ISRAELI CABINET AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM SINAI PASSES AND ABU RUDAIS OIL FIELDS.

3. GUMHURIYYA'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT HODA TAWFIQ WRITES JUNE 16 THAT "INFORMED DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES" EXPECT SECRETARY KISSINGER TO RETURN TO AREA "WITHIN A FEW WEEKS" AND QUOTES "SOURCES" FURTHER AS SAYING THAT SHOULD US BE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, IT WILL "MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR A TOTAL SOLUTION". (COMMENT: TAWFIQ'S SOURCE IS OFTEN DP FONMIN FAHMY.)

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS, WHICH HAD ACCEPTED US POSITION THAT REASSESSMENT COULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL AFTER TALKS WITH SADAT AND RABIN, MADE INSISTENT CALLS OVER WEEKEND FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF US "STAND". EDITORIALS OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO JUNE 20 FORD/KHADDAM MEETING AND HENCE DO NOT MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR FURTHER DELAY IN REASSESSMENT ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH THIS LATER MEETING CAUSES. EDITORS JUNE 16 AND 17, HOWEVER, HAVE COMPLETELY DROPPED US ROLE THEME AND CONCENTRATE RATHER ON EEC AND LOCAL ISSUED. SPATE OF REPORTS ON KISSINGER'S IMMINENT ARRIVAL ARE MEASURE OF CONTINUED LOCAL OPTIMISM THAT US CAN AND WILL WORK OUT FURTHER PEACE MOVE.
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